Advisory committees on environment and forests

2174. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Committee on Environment and Forests are not being constituted regularly at Centre and the State Levels;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the details of rules and regulations for constitution of Advisory Committees, alongwith the tenure of the Committees;

(d) whether these rules are being followed in constitution of the committees by the States; and

(e) if not, the measures taken by the Government to ensure implementation of regulations?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Environment and Forests constitutes various expert and advisory committees from time to time at the central and state levels for overseeing the effective functioning of different schemes and programmes of the Ministry.

(c) to (e) The terms of reference of these committees depend on the specific mandate of the committee. The tenure normally ranges from 2-5 years. The committees have representation from academia, research institutions, Governmental and non-governmental organizations, depending upon the nature of the schemes/ programmes.

Fire in Sriharikota forests

2175. SHRI K.M. KHAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that huge fire broke out in the forests of Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh, recently;

(b) if so, what were the causes of the fire and why Government had not taken early steps to control the fire; and

(c) what is the total estimated damage caused to its flora and fauna?